



An Overview of the Ecosystem Enhancement Program and Its Role in Compensatory Mitigation



David Knight, NCDENR Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources
October 23, 2012

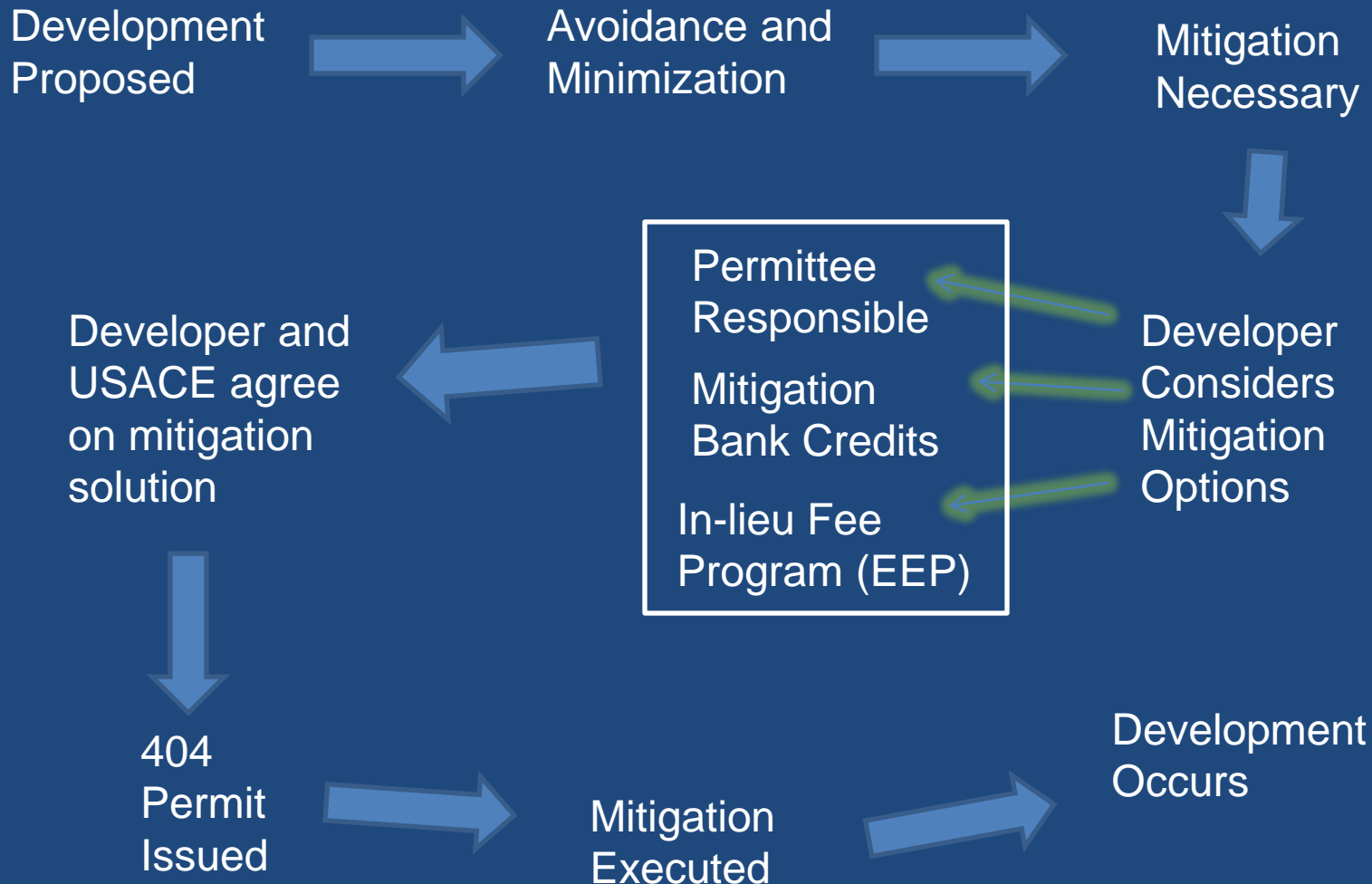


Presentation Outline

- EEP & the mitigation process
- History of EEP & purpose
- EEP organization - How it works
- Project implementation



The Mitigation Process





**1996 – N.C. Wetlands
Restoration Program
established by NCGA to
improve permitting process
and mitigation outcomes**

**Early 2000s – facilitated
interagency dialogue to
improve transportation
delivery**

EEP History

1996

1997

1998

1999

2000

2001

2002

2003

2004

2005

2006

2007

2008

2009

2010

2011

2012



**2003 – EEP established:
To eliminate existing transportation delays
(40%) associated with mitigation,
To provide advanced mitigation based on
watershed planning**



How EEP has benefitted North Carolina

- EEP is an important option to developers across the state



- \$10.5 billion in transportation infrastructure has been delivered without delays from mitigation

- Evidence shows marked improvement in mitigation outcomes in the last 15 years

“The overall success rate for wetland mitigation in North Carolina... has greatly improved...”

Compensatory Stream and Wetland Mitigation in North Carolina,
March 25, 2011



Current Work Load

- 279 Active Contracts
 - Value of \$180 million
- Responsible for over 1600 federal (404) water quality permits
- Overseeing delivery of over 350 active stream, wetland and riparian buffer restoration projects (600 projects in total)

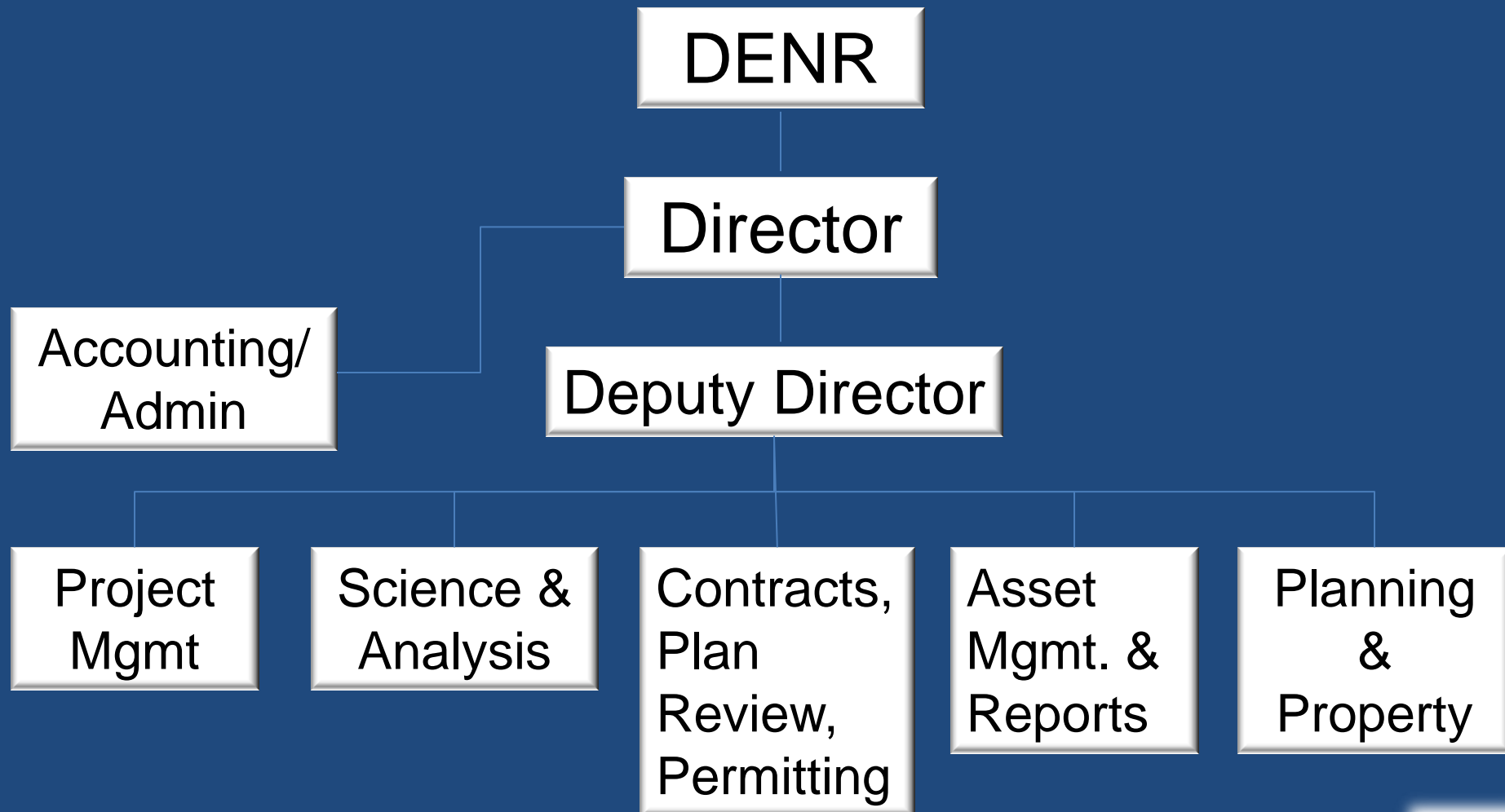


Organizational Information

- Totally funded through receipts
- Positions
 - Original staff allocation of 63 positions
 - Decrease of 11 positions since 2003
 - Current staff level of 52 positions
 - 43 funded through NCDOT, 9 supported through other ILF funds

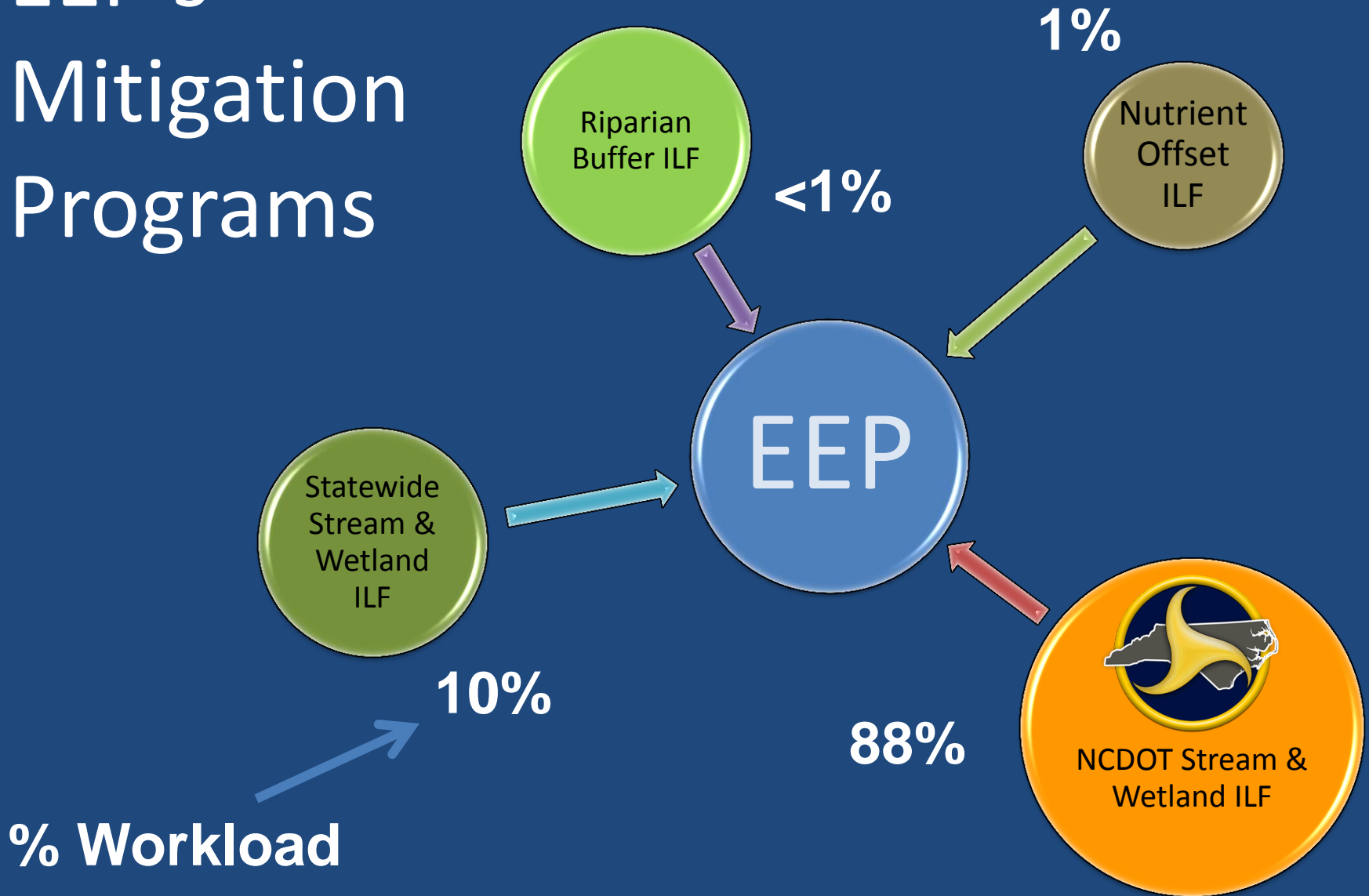


Organizational Structure





EEP's Mitigation Programs





Customers - N.C. DOT

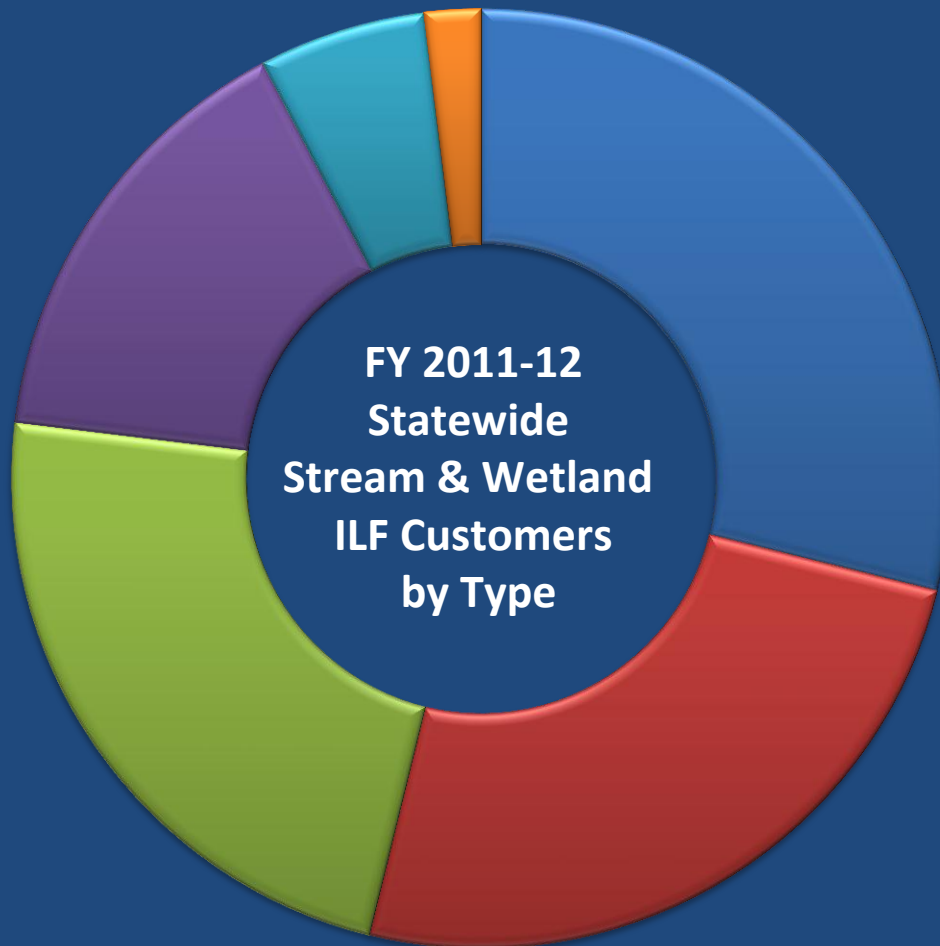


- ❖ EEP's largest customer
- ❖ Goals of partnership are being met
 - Advancement of high quality mitigation
 - Permits flowing
- ❖ Partnership has supported effective implementation of over \$10.5 billion of transportation projects



Customers

Statewide
Stream and
Wetland ILF



- Residential (29%)
- Commercial/Industrial/Retail (25%)
- Local/State/Federal Government (23%)
- Private Utilities/Infrastructure (15%)
- Military (6%)
- Non-Profit Organization (2%)



Examples of Retail and Service Industry Customers

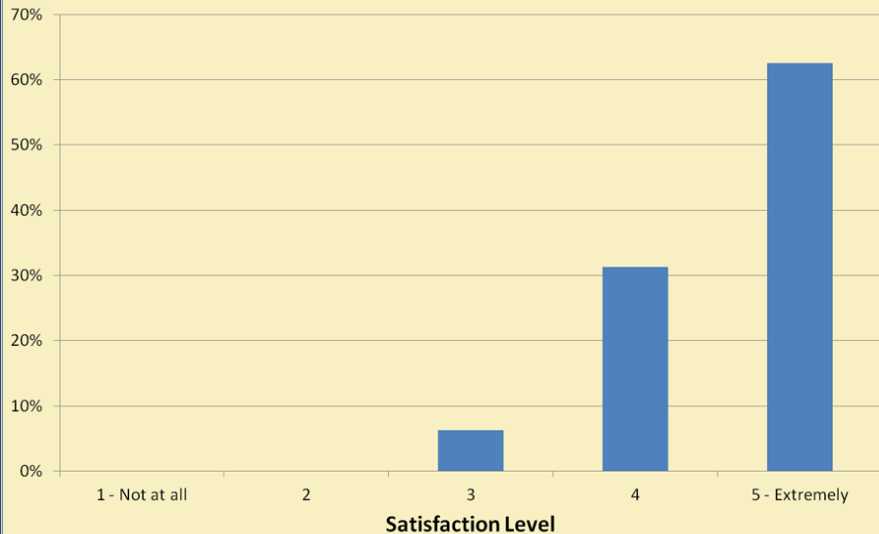
ABC, **Ace Hardware**, Advance Auto Parts, Agri Supply, Aldi, Applebee's, AT&T, Auto Zone, **Bank of America**, BB&T, BellSouth, **Bojangles**, Carabba's, Coastal Mini Storage, Cook-Out, **Costco**, Crescent State Bank, **CVS**, Dollar General, **Dunkin Donuts**, Duty Tire, **East Carolina Bank**, Embassy Suites, Fairfield Inn, FedEx, Gregory Poole, Hampton Inn, Hendrick Cadillac, **Holiday Inn**, Hyatt Hotel, **IBM**, Ingles, KFC, **Lowe's Home Improvements**, Lowe's Foods, **McDonalds**, Microtel, News and Observer, North Hills East, North State Bank, Olive Garden, Outback Steakhouse, **Pepsi**, Piedmont Town Center, Pizza Hut, Polo Ralph Lauren, **Precision Tune**, Quarles Petroleum, **Quintiles**, State Employees Credit Union, **Sheetz**, Sleep Inn, Stanley Steamer, Steak N' Shake, Super Express Lube, TGI Fridays, Triangle Town Centre, Umstead Hotel, US Fleet Fueling, **Verizon**, Waffle House, **Walgreen's**, Wendy's, **WalMart**, Wilco Hess.



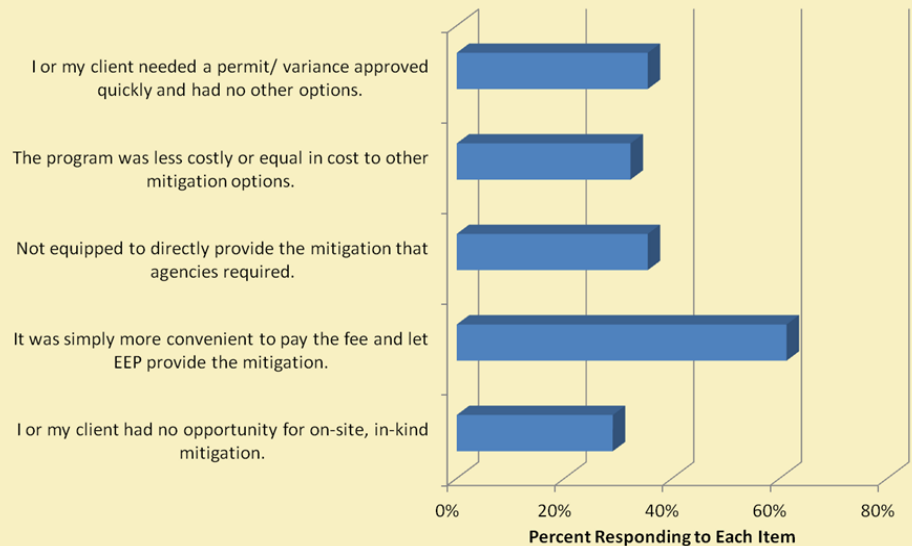
Customer Satisfaction Survey Respondents stated:

- They would use EEP again or recommend the use of EEP to others
- EEP is “business friendly” and praised staff

Overall, how satisfied are you with your experience with EEP's ILF Program?



Why did you/your client choose to use the EEP ILF Program?
(Please check all that apply.)





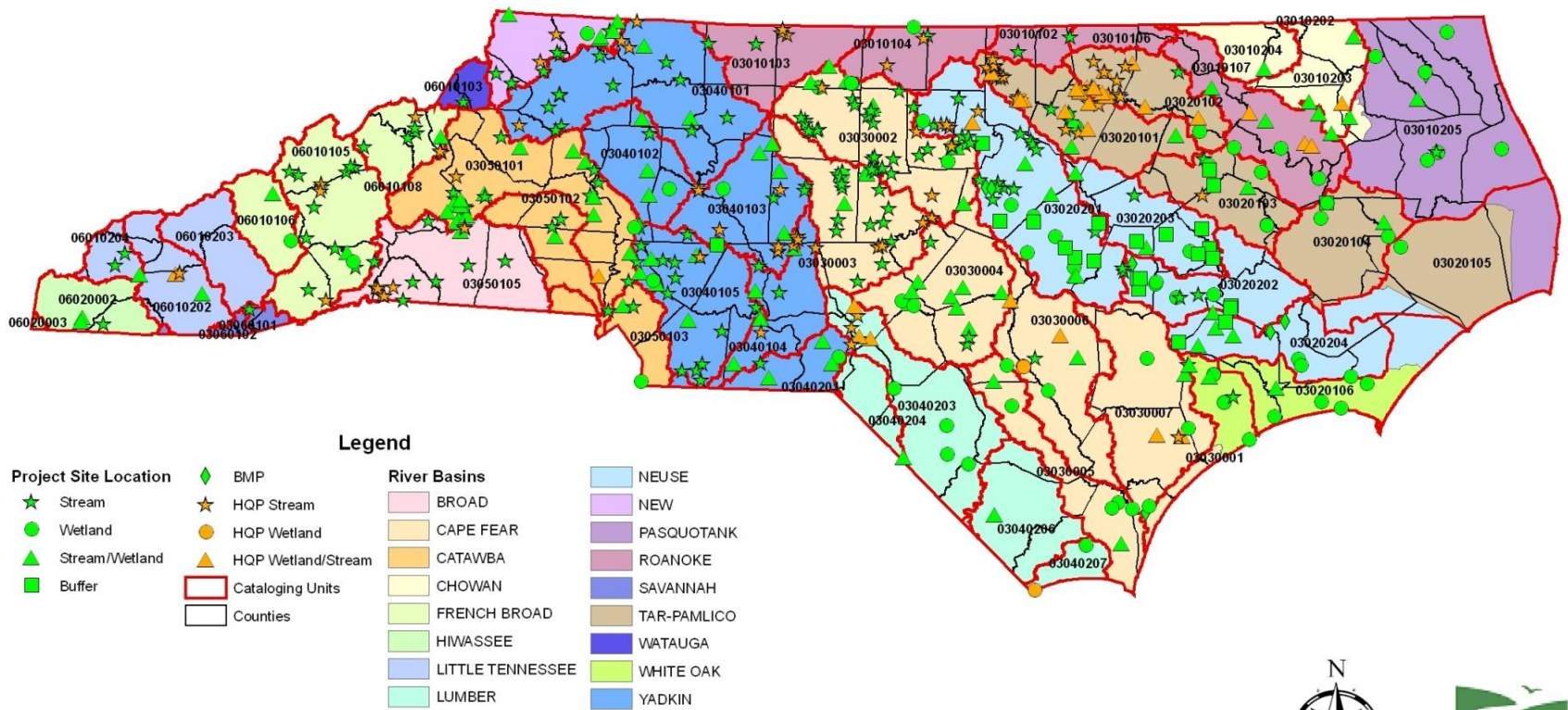


Project Implementation

- Reliance on private sector companies to do the work
 - \$490 million in awards
 - Average annual expenditures of > \$48 million
- Adherence to rigorous regulatory criteria
 - Type, magnitude and location of mitigation
 - Timing of implementation of mitigation
 - Standards and criteria for how mitigation is built

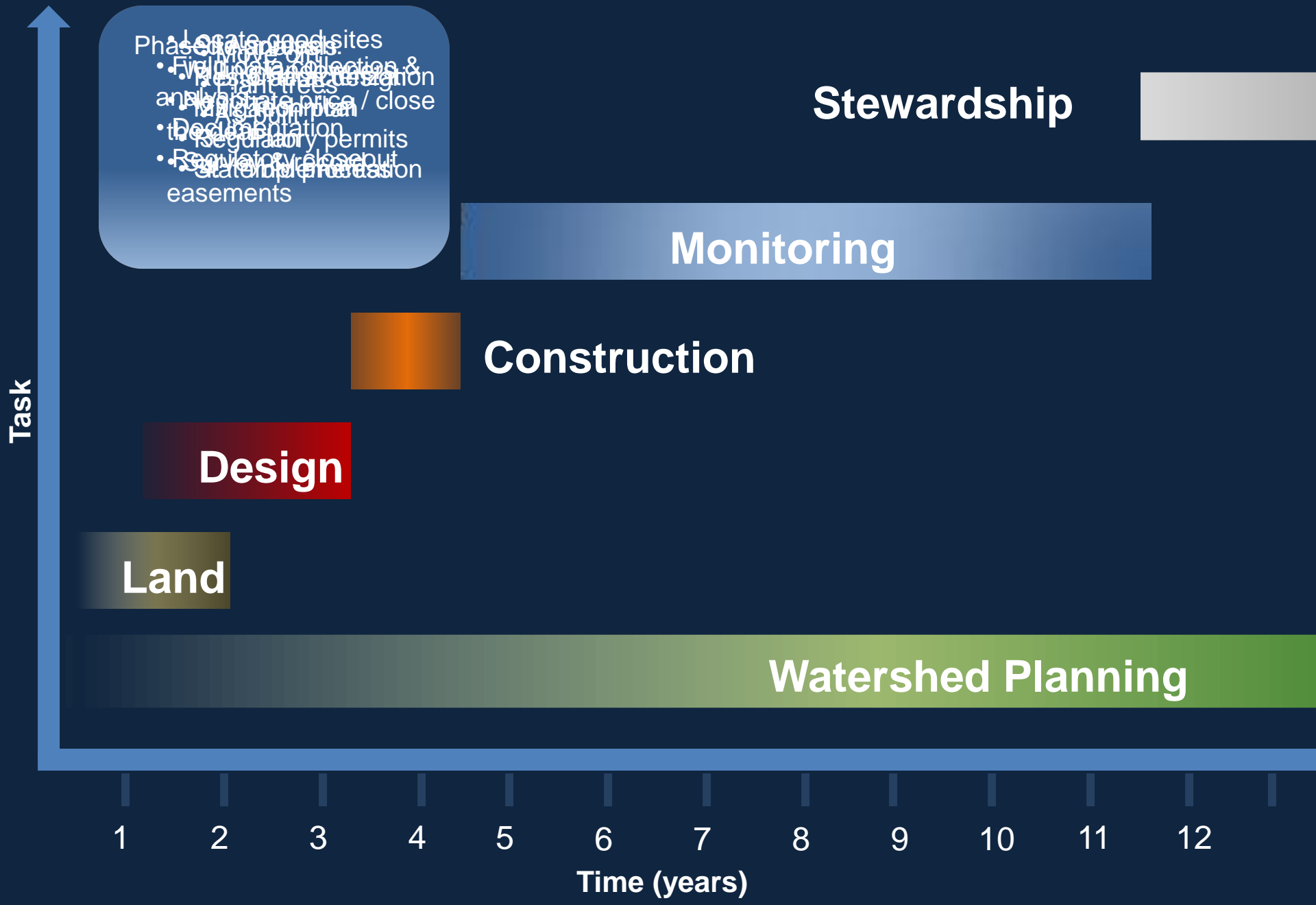


Ecosystem Enhancement Program Project Locations within North Carolina River Basins and Cataloging Units



70 0 70 Miles





Before...



During...



After.





Awards and Recognition



NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROFESSIONALS



- FHWA Outstanding Env. Stewardship
- Twice listed in the top 50 list of finalists for Harvard's Innovations in American Government Award
- Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards – Natural Resource Agency of the Year (2006)



Questions?

